

HELPS FOR NEW AMERICANS



A SEA TRIP
(In Pursuit of Happiness)

THE RECORD OF Civic Service House

A Social Settlement

Founded 1901

*Revised and enlarged 1915 by the Executive Board
and Board of Trustees
William Brewster, 1911 & 1914*

THIS RECORD PUBLISHED AT THE HOUSE
NUMBER 112 SALEM STREET, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

1915

Down to Water Front
Stamper Point

"Domestic & Papering"

Ann. square - "Betsy Ross Club"

Shaw Cottage - 5 Bedrooms, Screened Porch for sleeping
Kitchen, bath room. fire place, coal stove &c.
12 people. beach & boat landing

Shaw Cottage near view - Screened porch
Oak Grove.



Gloucester Harbor 2 miles from Camp Agassiz



Camp Agassiz Landing Float

Wm. C. S. Locke.

Helps for New Americans

The Record of

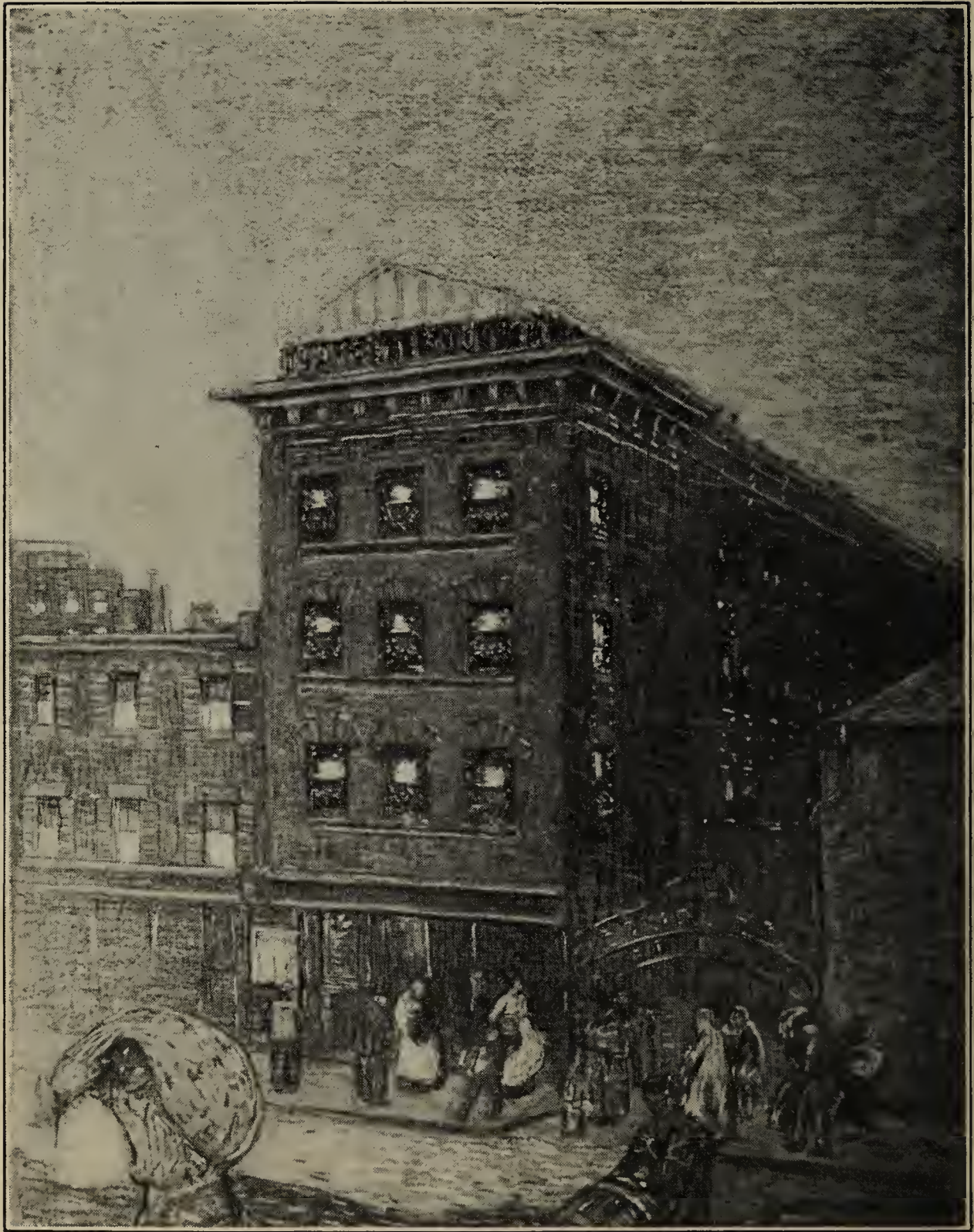
Civic Service House

A Social Settlement

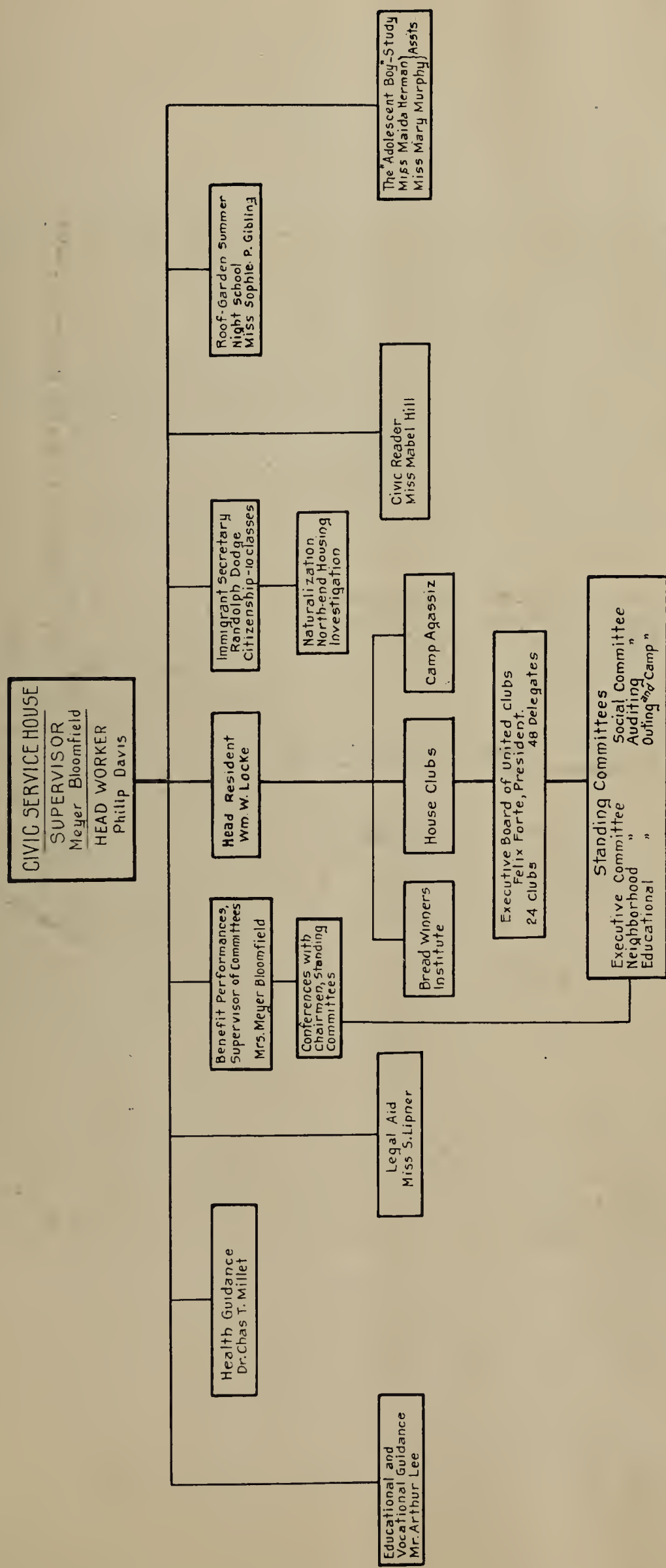


This Record Published at the House

Number 112 Salem Street, Boston, Massachusetts, 1915



CIVIC SERVICE HOUSE
112 Salem Street
Boston



ORGANIZATION CHART
CIVIC SERVICE HOUSE
BOSTON, MASS.

Introduction.



THE recent American Church Congress was obliged to lay aside all church issues to consider those directly resulting from the war. Of these the most important question discussed was its effect on the next immigration.

The conviction is wide-spread that immigration will increase immediately after the war. This immigration will bring with it at least two problems: greater poverty and—worse than that—prejudices engendered by the conflict. The American Melting Pot will be taxed to its utmost in fusing and dissolving the sharp race feelings which now prompt men to kill each other abroad.

The Church Congress endorsed a program of constructive human fellowship as the surest solvent of race hatred. Constructive human fellowship has been the program of the Civic Service House from its very beginning. Neither our outgrown home nor our inadequate equipment can seriously affect the fruit of this fellowship so long as the House continues to be the meeting ground for the best types of old and new Americans. But in order to meet the emergencies of the next immigration we need a new home with a hall for a civic forum. Our library, so often used as a reception room, demonstrates the need of such a room. The library itself ought to be larger in order to adequately serve as the meeting-place of new Americans and those Americans always with us in spirit and in work. Our annual Washington and Lincoln celebrations, and the many clubs named after both Washington and Lincoln, so popular in neighborhoods like ours, testify to the reality of these living spirits embodied in the Farewell Address or the letter to Mrs. Bixby.

CAMP AGASSIZ

Camp Agassiz began in a tent on the crest of a hill near the Piscataqua River in Eliot, Maine. It was located in an open field, where it was necessary for all the members of the small camp to take active part. In gathering berries, picking up waste wood for a camp fire, going to a distant well for water or uniting in the domestic service they returned to the fundamental conditions of those who live close to the soil. They learned to appreciate the value of co-operative service and mutual responsibility.



CAMP AGASSIZ

Tent life, however, has its limitations. Some of the elements of home life are missing. An enlargement was necessary to meet the needs of the growing membership of the Civic Service House who wanted to spend their vacations in the country. Although the early campers looked back with pleasure to the gypsy freedom of the tent life at Greenacre, they welcomed the change from Eliot to Hingham, where the camp took on a more settled and homelike appearance by the addition of a little portable cottage.

After two years spent in the Hingham woods and one year on Russ Island, by the Annisquam River, a permanent site was obtained at Stanwood Point, West Gloucester. It was an ideal

location for our enterprise. The period of exploration and nomadic life was over. In 1909 we began to build for the future.

Camp Agassiz consists of three houses: the Agassiz House, the Shaw House and the Pinafore Cottage. These are located on a branch of the Annisquam River, about one mile from Gloucester Harbor and two miles from Wingaersheek Beach.



IN THE WATERS OF THE ANNISQUAM RIVER

The camp, standing high above the river-bank on Stanwood Point, commands a view of sand dunes, pine hills and stretches of marsh land. Behind the camp is West Gloucester village with its railroad station within walking distance.

The camp is equipped for groups of twenty-five people. The houses are provided with running water, electric lights and telephone, a library of two hundred books, including the Harvard Classics, and a small fleet consisting of three rowboats and a motor boat. Several tents belonging to the original outfit are made use of to furnish additional accommodations on the Fourth of July and Labor Day.

This year Camp Agassiz accommodated one hundred and thirty-four wage-earners for periods of two weeks. Special parties were accommodated on week-ends. Excursions, limited to fifty in number, were entertained over the Fourth of July and

on Labor Day. The last Labor Day excursion was composed of members from twelve different clubs.



A WAGE-EARNER'S EXCURSION

The camp was fortunate last year in enlisting the services of college students, who co-operated with the director and his assistants in carrying out the daily program of sports, swimming, boating and tramping and the evening entertainments. Every evening at camp is spent in some form of recreation consisting of impromptu dramatics, dancing, story-telling and games. There were several camp-fire meetings, mock trials and masquerades.

The weekly picnic at Wingaersheek Beach was the event of greatest interest to each group. In three rowboats and a motor boat parties of thirty people made successful trips. The most memorable events were the nights spent on the beach by parties of twelve girls with their group leaders. Sleeping in the open on the sand dunes on a warm moonlight night was a wonderful revelation.

The gift of a small rowboat from one girls' club, a contribution for the motor boat from another club, and gifts of a new flag and some electric lights from members of the House were fully appreciated and acknowledged as an indication of the camp spirit which should prevail among all the clubs and members of the House.

Camp Agassiz is self-supporting in respect to running expenses and methods of carrying on its domestic affairs. The camp is a government by the campers and for the campers. The general business is under the direction of a camp committee representing the United Clubs of the Civic Service House.



A SEA TRIP

The Camp Committee was in regular attendance during the summer, making up the parties and providing for the transportation. All worked together in making improvements in camp. Rocks were removed from the beach, the grounds cleared of brush, the trees trimmed and protected from gypsy moths and the buildings painted and kept in repair largely by volunteer workers.

CLUBS OF THE CIVIC SERVICE HOUSE

DIRECTORS	PRESIDENTS	SECRETARIES
<i>American Literary Club</i> Hazel E. Cole	Morris Levine	Dora Steinberg
<i>Betsey Ross Association</i> Elizabeth Bornstein	Jennie Rabinovitz	
<i>Boston Associates</i> L. R. Edminster	James Wasserman	James Kaplan
<i>Civic Debating Club</i> James Hoskins	Felix Forte	Frank DeMarco
<i>Civic Educational Club</i> H. M. Thurston	Lillian Rosenthal	Morris Rome
<i>Eliot School Graduates, Inc.</i> Albert Russell Lovejoy	Charles Velardo	Carmen Petrillo
<i>Emerson Literary Club</i> Ralph Anderson	Lena Schlosberg	Anna Schlosberg
<i>Enterprise Club</i> Mary S. Locke	Jeannette Kerstein	Jennie Edelstein
<i>Excelsior Club</i> Virginia Boraud	Sarah Shapiro	Dora Kemler
<i>Friends of Liberty</i> Morris Feldman	Hyman Goldman	
<i>Hancock Club</i> Carrie V. Lynch	Frances Gavuglio	Minnie Falorny
<i>Herzl Girls' Club</i> Jacob J. Golub	Eva Woronoff	Mary Silverman
<i>Hebrew Literary Club</i> Henry Fine	David Saklad	Hyman Solov
<i>Italian Debating Club</i> William Clapp	Daniel Scipioni	Joseph Marino
<i>Junior City Council</i> Frederick J. Allen	Frank DeMarco	Nicholas Cefalo

CLUBS OF THE CIVIC SERVICE HOUSE — Continued

DIRECTORS	PRESIDENTS	SECRETARIES
<i>Junior Zionist Council</i>		
Paul C. Cohen	Bella Golub	
<i>Lithuanian Club</i>		
Joseph Bukantis	K. Rostuka	
<i>Law Club</i>		
H. M. Stern	Benjamin Slavin	
<i>Mazzini Educational Club</i>		
Antonio Terminiello	Felix Forte	Louis Scotti ✓
<i>North End Commercial Club</i>		
Eleanor Bigelow	Lovetto Tessicino	Joseph Cella ✓
<i>Polish Club</i>		
Eliot M. Grant	Michael Drosik	
<i>Possumist Club</i>		
Benjamin Woronoff	Samuel Goldman	Samuel J. Cohen
<i>Ukranian Progressive</i>		
M. Shin	M. Kalish	
<i>Webster Debating Club</i>		
Felix Forte	Joseph Calato	✓



Organizing a Civic Service Club.
 a self governing - self supporting Club
 of young workers. "Breadwinners Institute"

THE VOCATION BUREAU

Statement from "Choosing a Vocation," by Frank Parsons

"The Vocation Bureau of Boston was founded in January, 1908, by Mrs. Quincy A. Shaw, on plans drawn up by the writer. More than a dozen years ago I stated the essence of the matter in a lecture on 'The Ideal City.' That lecture was repeated in Boston before the Economic Club a few years ago, and soon after Mr. Meyer Bloomfield and Mr. Philip Davis, on behalf of the Civic Service House, invited me to speak to the graduating class of one of the evening high schools on the choice of a vocation. After the talk a number of the young men asked for personal interviews, and the results proved to be so helpful that Mr. Bloomfield requested me to draw plans for the permanent organization of the work. These plans were submitted to Mrs. Shaw, who heartily approved the idea, and immediately established the new institution with sufficient resources to enable the work to be begun as a new department of the Civic Service House in the North End of Boston."

THE BOSTON MUSIC SCHOOL SETTLEMENT

Statement from Boston Music School Settlement Report

"The Boston Music School Settlement took definite shape in November, 1910, at 110-112 Salem Street after its founder, a worker of the Civic Service House, had made a close study of the community and its needs. The neighborhood was selected because of its fine population of nearly 35,000 Italians, Russians, Poles and other nationalities all naturally music-loving but with little opportunity for musical education or musical recreation. The free use of five rooms was offered to the Settlement by the Civic Service House, an institution making the education of the immigrant its chief work."

TYPES OF CO-OPERATION

I. Investigation of 500 families in the North End and West End of Boston for the purpose of obtaining data called for by an order of the Legislature to the State Board of Education to submit a report on agricultural instruction for families. "The Civic Service House rendered valuable assistance in selecting interpreters,—persons familiar with the various foreign languages spoken by the heads of families in the North End and West End,—to hold the necessary personal interviews and obtain the required data. Special mention should be made of the faithful and untiring labors of Mr. Francesco Profita of the Civic Service House, since he was the interpreter through whom the plan suggested for consideration was brought to the attention of by far the greatest number of individual families."

Extract Special Report State Board of Education, Page 16

II. "I want to thank the Civic Service House for co-operating in the establishment of extension education in needle trades. Its familiarity with the workers and leaders in these trades was of value to me as an officer of the School Committee in making plans for the proposed school."

Extract from Report by F. V. Thompson, Assistant Superintendent
Boston Public Schools

HOUSE EVENTS

1910-1915

- June 1, 1910* . . Annual Reunion under auspices of Civic Service House Council.
- October 8, 1911* . Memorial Services for Prof. Frank Parsons, given under auspices of Breadwinners' Institute at the Civic Service House.
- October 30, 1911* Tenth Anniversary of Civic Service House—Reunion of House Clubs.
- May 27, 1912* . "Pinafore," given by Hancock School Alumnæ and Mazzini Educational Clubs at St. Mary's Theatre.
- May 31, 1912* . Annual Meeting of Clubs at Civic Service House.
- January 24, 1913* Scholarship Ball.
- April 14, 1913* . Reunion of House Clubs of Civic Service House at Copley Hall.
- May 2, 1913* . "Pinafore," by Clubs of Civic Service House at St. Mary's Theatre.
- April 22, 1914* . Second Annual Ball of United Clubs of the Civic Service House for the benefit of Camp Agassiz.
- April 28, 1914* . "The Pirates of Penzance," given by Mazzini Educational and Hancock Clubs at St. Mary's Theatre.
- February 11, 1915* Second Annual Banquet under auspices of United Clubs at Twentieth Century Club.

PROFESSOR FRANK PARSONS

Founder of Breadwinners' Institute and Vocation Bureau

No record of Civic Service House is adequate without due mention of the services rendered by Professor Frank Parsons. His name is still conjured by members as the last word in teaching — the key to the treasures of knowledge. His intensely active life is the highest inspiration to those who were privileged to know him.

Frank Parsons was born in Mount Holly, N. J., in 1854 and was graduated from Cornell University in 1873. After practicing engineering and teaching school several years, he was admitted to the Boston bar and became a lecturer on law, economics, history and political science. He was a lecturer at Boston University from 1892 to 1905, and traveled extensively in the United States and Europe, studying economic facts, especially in regard to transportation, public ownership and city government. He lectured and wrote extensively on these, his favorite subjects.

He wrote "The City and the People," "The Philosophy of Mutualism," "The Railways, the Trusts and the People," "The Story of New Zealand," "The New Political Economy," "The World's Best Books," "Direct Legislation," "Legal Doctrine and Social Progress."

He founded the Breadwinners' Institute and the Vocation Bureau of the Civic Service House, giving the last years of his very full and fruitful life to the work of the Bureau and Institute, which he fondly called his "Labor of Love." Professor Frank Parsons died in 1908.

Ode to the Enterprise Club

By Dr. David F. Lincoln

*Enterprise, O Enterprise,
Thy root is firmly planted;
Thy trunk aspires in majesty
By storm and wind undaunted.
Thy branches in the sunshine move
Thy summit towers the clouds above:
Enterprise, O Enterprise,
How firmly art thou planted!*

*Enterprise, O Enterprise,
Thy bonds shall hold us ever.
The bonds of steadfastness and faith
We surely ne'er shall sever.
Thy leaf is green in summer time,
'Tis green in winter's biting clime:
Enterprise, O Enterprise,
Alive and bright forever!*

